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Furman maintains strong program of grant support

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Furman maintains strong program of grant support

For members of the faculty and staff at Furman, funding from corporations, foundations, and federal and state agencies contributes significantly to research, scholarships, internships, capital improvements and equipment acquisitions, as well as to endowments for these and other purposes. Although 2002-03 has been a difficult year for the nation's economy, Furman has been successful in continuing to attract funding for a wide variety of projects.

Several grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will support faculty development. Furman is one of eight colleges sharing a four-year, \$2.5 million Mellon award, and Furman and Rhodes College received a separate \$650,000 Mellon grant for collaborative faculty development programs. In addition, Jane Love, director of the Center for Collaborative Learning and Communication, and computer science professor Kevin Treu received a \$25,500 planning grant to create an on-line database that will promote cross-disciplinary teaching.

Other recent grants have come from:

- The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, which awarded \$37,816 to support the Summer Teacher Institute sponsored by Furman's Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics and Public Leadership.

- NASA, to support research on prospective memory by psychology professor Gil Einstein, ongoing work by Hayden Porter of computer science, and a project by David Moffett of the physics department that involves monitoring the sun and Jupiter through radio wavelengths.

- The Freeman Foundation, whose \$46,000 gift goes toward supporting a Center for Teaching About Asia.

Through late April, with two months remaining in the fiscal year, Furman had received grants and awards totaling more than \$6.1 million. With \$5.1 million in pending grant proposals, the university was assured of surpassing its 2001-02 figure of \$6.2 million in grants received — an impressive feat in these challenging economic times.

— Aynoka Bender

Grants and Sponsored Programs

Visit www.furman.edu/grants/index.htm for more information.

Philanthropic spirit

Furman supporters step up and respond in challenging times

Philanthropy — the love of humankind — helps define who we are as a nation. Americans see a need and fill it. We reach out to those less fortunate. We help others achieve their potential. And in doing so, we touch individual lives and make a difference in society.

Over the past 177 years, Furman has produced hundreds of individuals whose philanthropic spirit led them to become teachers, social workers and professionals in a wide range of work that enhances the well-being of others. It has also led them to share their time and talents with Furman.

Until 1996, on average, one Furman alum in three supported the university financially. But something changed during the last seven years.

The sense of philanthropy among Furman alumni, combined with the knowledge that their university will be as strong as their commitment enables it to be, has led them to levels of generosity never before seen. Four out of five alumni made a gift to Furman — or, more accurately, to Furman students — during the course of the Forever Furman campaign (1996-2002).

This spring, Furman alumni and friends responded to a call for greater generosity, made all the more urgent because of the effect of the economy on Furman's students

and its resources. Parents have lost jobs, and market forces have battered the university's endowment income. In answering this call, alumni and friends helped Furman maintain a longstanding tradition: a balanced budget, for the 27th year in a row.

Nationwide, the American tradition of philanthropy is being challenged more than at any time in recent memory. The country's sense of well-being is bruised, and its optimism is threatened by financial concerns and international insecurity. In this uncertain climate, charitable support has waned and donors have become much more selective in their giving.

Perhaps Furman alumni, parents and friends have something to teach their fellow Americans about philanthropy. Clearly, they take responsibility for seeing that needs are filled and opportunities seized — even in the most challenging times. This is *their* Furman, and it will continue to be as strong as they want it to be.

This exemplary, long-term philanthropy — love of humankind, those living now and those in the future — is becoming one of Furman's distinctive traditions, and one of the finest elements of the American character.

— Donald J. Lineback

Vice President for Development

Honor a professor by endowing a faculty office

"I wouldn't be where I am today if it hadn't been for . . ."

When alumni recall their Furman years, they often make comments like this about a professor whose classroom skills, empathetic advising and friendly support proved invaluable during their student days and afterward.

Now, Furman is offering alumni the opportunity to endow a faculty office in the name of a professor. In Herman N. Hipp Hall, for example, gifts to name two offices in the Department of Economics and Business Administration suite are being sought. A donor has provided two challenge gifts for half the \$25,000 required to name each office. An additional \$12,500 is needed in matching funds.

The named offices will honor two of the department's beloved professors, both now deceased: T. Benton Sellers and J. Carlyle Ellett. In addition, significant

interest has been expressed (and gifts are being received) to honor the late Schaefer B. Kendrick. The challenge gift is expected to be in place soon.

Also in Hipp Hall, a gift from Michael McLain '80 has made it possible to name an office for Dixon Cunningham, who retired in 2002 after 26 years on the economics and business faculty. Mike found this an ideal opportunity to remember this friend and mentor.

Naming opportunities for offices are available in virtually all departments. Renovations are to begin this summer on Furman Hall, and the refurbishment will offer the chance to endow offices in honor of professors in classics, communication studies, English, history, modern languages and literatures, philosophy and religion.

Gifts are payable over three to five years. For information, call Bob Fuzy, director of major gifts, at (864) 294-3732, or e-mail bob.fuzy@furman.edu.